

Hastings Trust

Quarterly

Issue 18

May 1998

Formal Opening of 35 Robertson Street on the America Ground

This was the highlight and fulfilment of our initial aspirations: the target of operating out of our own property was no longer a dream. The culmination of planning and hard work was here, complete and on show for all to see. What a lovely example it was - to all those 180 guests - of The Trust's' competence in producing such a professional Headquarters from which to operate.

The weather on Thursday 26th March was appalling and our wet weather plan was to cut the tape from inside. This meant we were packed in very tight, but Maureen Lipman proved her worth as a very amusing and attractive star and gave a warm and pleasant air to the proceedings during her official opening ceremony.

English Partnerships as the main partner in this project had a stand on the 1st floor and kindly sponsored the delicious Buffet. It was whilst the majority were upstairs sampling this that the Trust were very grateful to be presented by Superintendent Mel Elliot of Hastings Police with a cheque of £2,000 to assist in the funding of the Ore Valley Forum Post. Congratulations and many thanks also to Beverly Winchester who won £1,000 from the Nat West and the Times Community Enterprise Award and kindly presented this to the Trust towards an Ore Valley project.

Those of you who have not yet visited us please take the opportunity of doing so on our OPEN DAY on the 10th of June.

The Chairman's welcoming address

Ladies and Gentlemen on behalf of all the members of Hastings Trust I would like to warmly welcome everyone of you, to the formal opening of our very own premises. This wonderfully renovated building - 35 Robertson Street.

This is the end of the beginning.

This is our flagship.

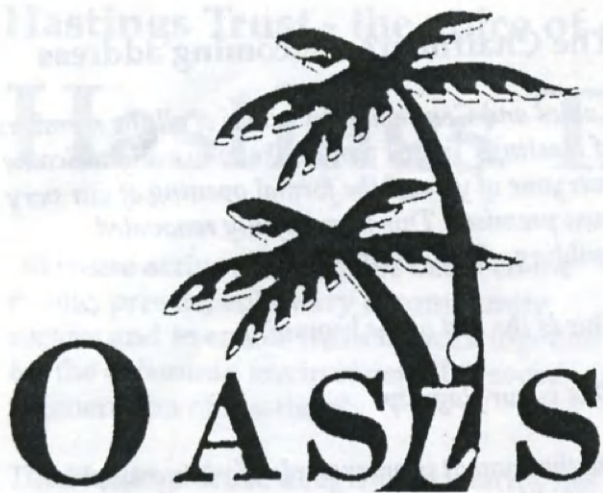
Furthermore it is an example of partnerships at work. Many of you here are members of those fellow partners in this project and deserve our sincere appreciation for your support and confidence in Hastings Trust.

It is the Trust's intention - with all the new facilities we have on site and our experience - to build on our support and confidence and to create additional partnerships to enable us to improve on our aim 'of working for the community and with the community in regenerating Hastings.

Stephen GB Hinton, Chairman



Maureen Lipman cuts the ribbon as the Trust's Director Christine Goldschmidt looks on



The OASIS (Ore Advice Support Information Service) is going from strength to strength. They recently celebrated their first year of being in operation, by holding a Celebration Party to say 'Thank You' to those people who had been involved in making the Centre the success that it has become. The Woman's Healthy Lifestyle Group prepared and served all the food, which was both highly praised and delicious. Mr Keith Donaldson (Chief Executive of the 1066 Housing Association) came along as guest of honour and then cut the birthday cake. The other 35 guests included several representatives from the various statutory and voluntary agencies that have supported the Centre and also Michael Foster the local member of Parliament, Councillor Pam Brown and Inspector Derrick Taylor, not to mention all the members of the steering group and many local residents.

New services to add to the list of facilities offered by OASIS include a Baby Clinic, where parents can bring their young children to be weighed, collect their free baby milk and ask for advice from the Health Visitor. There are also several new courses that have or are about to start which include Study Skills and the New Horizon's Course. These are both funded and supported by the University of Sussex (Centre for Continuing Education Department).

The Community Newsletter, which is published and edited by a team at the OASIS Centre, has had three issues out now and is proving to be a popular magazine amongst the residents of the whole of the Ore Valley. The circulation of 2000 includes the Broomgrove, Farley Bank, Halton and Deepdene estates. All contributions of letters, poems, recipes, articles and adverts are very welcome and should be sent to Clare Croft at the OASIS Centre.

Any further details of what services and courses available at the OASIS can be obtained from Clare Croft the Centre Co-ordinator on 709080.

In praise of OASIS letter from local MP

April 24th

Dear Clare

Re: OASIS

Thank you for the invitation to the 'Birthday Party' on Thursday last. I was interested to meet the various helpers at the Centre and was impressed by the wide range of support you are able to give.

Earlier in the day I had been across to the other side of the valley at Farley Bank and there is no doubt at all that there is a community spirit building up in Ore Valley as a result of your work, and the work of others.

Best wishes,

Michael Foster
DL MP

'Make A Difference'

Hastings Young Volunteer Development Project

Are you between the age of 15 - 25?

What are you doing in your spare time?

Would you like to try something new?

You could help others; improve your chances of getting a job, use your skills; learn new skills or have a voice in what affects you in your community.

How about:

- educating other young people
- doing some conservation work
- getting involved with the "Wheels" off road project
- helping to produce a newsletter
- becoming a Youth Councillor
- helping to run a Youth Project
- working with Children.

If you'd like to be a volunteer ring Tracy Burbidge, Young Volunteer Development Worker, Ore Centre, Old London Road, Hastings. TN35 5BH Tel: 01424 719468 or contact her at the Hastings Trust on Wednesdays Tel: 01424 446373

Art Event

We are holding an art event to produce a banner to promote the project on 23rd May from 12 noon onward in Wellington Square (or if wet at the Salvation Army Hall in St Andrews Square).

If you are between 15 -25 and want to be arty for the afternoon, please come along. We will also be giving away £25 worth of CD vouchers. All you have to do is fill in a questionnaire and you will be entered for the raffle.

Are you a group or organisation?

Can you provide one session in August to show young people what your organisation does?

Tracy is getting her programme together now so give her a ring on the above number. The 'Make a Difference' Hastings Young Volunteer Development Project is supported by Hastings Trust, Hastings Voluntary Action, The Volunteer Bureau, Hastings College, Tressell Training, Youth Clubs Sussex Ltd, Hastings Borough Council, The Health Promotion Unit, Hastings and Bexhill Area Youth Service and BTCV.



National Development Trusts Open Day

On Wednesday June 10th Development Trusts across the country are opening their doors to show what they do and how they are making a difference to their local community in the first ever National Development Trusts Open Day.

The Open Day will show how development trusts are tackling social exclusion by involving local people in community-based regeneration. It will provide an opportunity for partners, funders, members and users to find out more about development trusts and highlights the contribution they make to local regeneration.

As a member of the Development Trusts Association, the Hastings Trust has been chosen to host the South east regional event, and it will be inviting the Government Office, TECs, businesses and local authorities from across the region to visit the Hastings Trust and find out about our work.

A programme of events is being worked up for the day. Everyone in Hastings is invited to pop in throughout the day to find out more about the Trust's work and how we can help you to make a difference in your community.

Further details from Christine Goldschmidt, Tel: 446373.



Come and help yourself (and others) at the

The Resource Centre aims to grow powerful networks that will catch the opportunities that would have got away. The Centre welcomes all who want to work together for the good of the town. Here you'll find out how other communities have carried out successful projects, meet others to exchange ideas and experience, make contact with people and organisations, locally, nationally and abroad who can help a local project.

The Centre is on two floors. The ground floor (with disabled access and toilet), is

equipped with five high end computers with 17" monitors, library, photocopier, scanner, community notice board and exhibition space. There is an area for friendly, informal meetings where visitors will be able to learn about what's happening locally, browse written information or use the Trust's computer databases. The first floor is a splendid meeting space (including video, TV and pull down screen for slide shows etc.) for up to about 35 people. This can be booked for more formal meetings or workshops.

Growing Local Economy: how to make full use of local resources

An introductory talk on Tuesday, June 16th at 7 pm at St Mary-in-the-Castle to be followed up with discussion groups at 10 am on Wednesday, June 18th at the Hastings Trust. Only limited places are available for the discussion groups at the Trust; early booking by phoning the Trust or leaving your name at the Resource Centre is advised if you wish to take part.

The talk and discussions will be chaired by **Owen Nankivell**, M.A. (Econ.), J.P., author of *A Hastings for the 21st Century, a strategic plan for Hastings*. After a long career as a senior economist in government and subsequently as Chief Economist for a UK multinational, Owen now has his own economic consultancy; he is also Executive Director of the Hinksey Network concerned with values issues in economics, including concern for local economic regeneration.

Steve Bendle will be the speaker and discussion group 1 leader, focussing on land and environmental issues. Steve was Chief Executive of the South London Family Housing Association for 14 years; for the past 4 years he has been involved in developing initiatives to promote social investment.

Pat Conaty will lead discussion group 2 focussing on local money. Pat is the Development Manager of the Aston Reinvestment Trust; he is also Development Manager of Birmingham Settlement and a founder of Rebuilding Society Network - a national association for community reinvestment funds.

Mike Franks will lead discussion group 3 focussing on skills and the creation of new work. He is Chairman of the Regeneration Trust, Clerkenwell. Mike is founder of the Regeneration Group of Companies and pioneer of managed workspace (over 1 million square feet in 40 projects). He is now working on economic, social and environmental management projects in the neighbourhoods of the 'City Fringe'.

John Turner will lead discussion group 4 on 'Tools for Community Regeneration', a project of the Hastings Trust Resource Centre. He has worked in local development in South America and in the USA where he was an international consultant while teaching at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and subsequently at the Development Planning Unit, U.C. London. John has been a Hastings Trust Board member for the past 5 years.

new Hastings Trust Resource Centre

The Centre concentrates on quality not quantity of information. A computer database of helpful people - those willing to give advice, time, knowledge or skills for the benefit of the town - will be established. The pioneering Tools for Community Regeneration database will eventually give easy access to the organisational and planning tools which make projects really work. Already available is a database of funders and a Local Agenda 21 database. Training courses are provided through Lifetime Training Solutions in health and

safety, computing and business skills. BTCV Enterprises (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) also runs courses in practical conservation from 35 Robertson Street.

The Centre typifies the deep need to forge new community links, as much as preserving old ones, taking advantage of new information technologies which not only help to strengthen community locally but place the process in a global perspective - the truly human perspective where our hope lies.



Wheels is now progressing in leaps and bounds. Our second 36 week programme is coming to an end and has been every bit as successful as the first. We now have a full race team consisting of three prepared cars, one spare and 10 fully licensed drivers.

Staff

Sarah 'Bubbles' Taylor has made excellent

progress with the project's administration, which has allowed manager Matt to concentrate on the development of the workshop, along with Mick 'Pops' Prestedge. 'Pops' has been busy devising new work schedules for our next 36 week programme and will soon begin preparing to meet the local commercial sector.

Current News

12 of our ex-trainees have now left school. Nine have found work in the auto-engineering trades; three as a direct result of attending Wheels. One is at college and two are studying for A levels. I think you'll agree that this is a great record.

We have developed the body fabrication side of the workshop and are now repairing customer cars. This is great for our trainees' confidence and experience, plus, it will generate a limited income for the project...so, if your car is looking a little sad just give us a ring and we'll fit you in!!

Until next time
Matt

Projects: New HQ, New Year, New Deal

News that the Government's 'Welfare to Work' scheme was going to be piloted in Hastings was received with delight and optimism. This means that the Trust can now accommodate volunteers on the 'Environmental Taskforce' undertaking projects borough-wide. It is hoped that forthcoming projects will

flourish in abundance which will enable the Trust to spearhead a volunteer task force and embark on environmental improvements. This will be the catalyst to accelerate physical projects to fruition in the next twelve months.

James Rose

Library gates & railingsre-decoration

Claremont Steps bollards and handrailre-decoration

George Street bollardsre-decoration

Provincial Passageresurfacing carriageway & footpaths, rebuilding walls

St James's Steps, footpath to Manor Road ...railings redecored with support from the Territorial Army

Greenwayembankment tree planting from Bethune to South Terrace Bridge

Glossary of Completed Projects

The Burtons' St Leonards Society

The Burtons' St Leonards Society is moving.

After many years at 49 Marina the Society is shifting its headquarters to the other side of the Royal Victoria Hotel, into larger premises in the east colonnade. Number 36 Marina has been empty since 1994 when the former Hampdens furnishing store closed down. The rest of the huge store, from 37 - 40 Marina, will be converted into an international chess centre subject to a successful lottery funding application. Number 36 comprises a double fronted late Victorian shop front with a large meeting / lecture room on the ground floor and workshop and exhibition space in the basement. The extra space will allow the Society to expand its activities - including a planned programme of history and conservation talks for children - and house its collection of architectural exhibits. The move has been made possible with an offer by the Borough Council of a grant towards the Society's rent. When fitting-out work is complete Number 36 will be among the most comfortable and attractive venues in St Leonards. 'We hope other groups will take advantage of the facility to make it a thriving community venture,' said Society chairman, Christine Wilson.

More eagerly awaited in St Leonards than the first swallow are signs of builders spending some of the £2 million of grants provided under the new Conservation Area Partnership Scheme between the Borough Council and English Heritage. This year should see repairs and restoration work starting in East Ascent, the Royal Victoria Hotel, the Marlborough Hotel and to buildings in West Marina. Later plans include ambitious proposals to enhance the appearance of the gateways to Burtons' St Leonards, renovate run-down sea-front properties and restore important Victorian architecture in Kings Road. Large audiences have supported a series of lectures at the Royal Victoria Hotel in memory of the Society's late President, Walter Ison, who was a respected authority on Georgian Bath and Hawksmoor's London churches. Speakers have included TV historian Dan Cruickshank, Richard Pollard of SAVE Britain's Heritage, and Neil Burton, secretary of the Georgian Group. The lectures continue with Michael Gwilliam, director of the Civic Trust (May 13), Dr William Filmer-Sankey, director of the Victorian Society (June 25) and Dr Fred Gray, an authority on sea side piers (July 23). Tickets are available from Hastings Trust.

Membership of the Hastings Trust is open to both individuals and organisations.

Individuals - anyone aged 18 or over in the Borough of Hastings District or Rother or any other place at the Board's discretion. **Organisations** - any organisations at the Board's discretion. The Board of Management comprises up to six members elected by the Individual Members, up to six elected by Organisations Members, one nomination by Hastings Borough Council, one by East Sussex County Council, and one by English Heritage.

Membership benefits include:

- Entitlement to vote at Annual General Meetings to elect Board Members and determine policy
- Receipt of annual report
- Receipt of newsletter and other information on Trust activities
- Invitations to Trust events

I/We _____
(name of individual or organisation)

of _____

(address)

(telephone / fax)

apply to become a member of the Hastings Trust, a company limited by guarantee. I/We agree to be bound by the company's memorandum and articles of association (available for inspection at the Trust's offices) and any rules

made under these. In the event of the company being wound up whilst I am a member, or within one year thereafter, I agree to contribute such amounts as may be required, but not more than £1.00.

Dated this day _____ 199

Signature _____

Position in organisation (if relevant) _____

Payment may be made by cheque or cash

Individual membership	£10 per annum	£ _____
Students, Senior Citizens, Unwaged	£4 per annum	£ _____
Organisation Membership	£20 per annum	£ _____
Donation		£ _____
Total		£ _____

Payment may be made by cheque or cash:

I enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'
I enclose cash totalling £ _____ I do / do not require a receipt

I/We enclose a cheque for £ _____ payable to 'Hastings Trust'

I do / do not require a receipt (Please delete as appropriate)

Please return this form with your subscription to: Hastings Trust, 35 Robertson Street, Hastings, E Sussex TN34 1HT
Tel 01424 446373 Fax 01424 434206

Hastings Trust - the voice of community based regeneration

Hastings Trust Vision

'To create active partnerships between the public, private, voluntary & community sectors and to enable them to work together for the economic, environmental & social regeneration of Hastings'.

The Hastings Trust, a registered charity, has these aims:

- To help those who live, work or visit here to care for the environment.
- To help the local economy to flourish in ways which won't spoil the place for those who come to us.
- To spread the word to all concerned about how best to regenerate the town and, at the same time, conserve all that's good in it.

If you would like to know more about the Hastings Trust, or would like to help the Trust in some way, please contact Heather Smith Tel: 01424 446373, or call in at our new Resource Centre at the address below.



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Registered Charity N° 1007410

WORKING TO REGENERATE HASTINGS